

STORMS

High Winds Kill Power Cause Minor Damage

Duxbury and Marshfield were the towns hit the heaviest in the Commonwealth Electric service area by last Wednesday's storm.

Spokesman Mike Durand said the utility is still compiling estimates on the power outages but that most of Duxbury was without power at one time.

He was unsure of how long it took to restore power to the entire town but said crews worked a full 24 hours before finishing the job.

Duxbury Police Lt. Donald Sjostedt said there were mostly reports of fallen trees and wires down.

"As far as we know there weren't trees crashing through houses compared to surrounding towns. There were a lot of calls but not a lot of damage," he said.

That assessment was echoed by Paul Balboni, operations manager for the Department of Public Works.

"We mostly had some downed trees and a few limbs were uprooted," Balboni said.

"For an hour and a half of wind blowing it was a hell of a lot of nuisance," Balboni said.

Town Hall operated the next day at about 1/4 of normal power, he said.

Although there were not a lot of trees down, the limbs all hit "primaries" causing the major outages, he added.

Harbormaster Donald Beers had the most excitement of the stormy evening, answering a rescue call from a small commercial boat and searching for others who had radioed that they were trying to get into shore.

Beers estimated the winds at 70 mph and said it was the most violent storm he had witnessed in 18 years.

"There was a lot of lightning and a lot of wind," he said.

Beers rescued the stranded skipper of the commercial boat, whose engine had died and was unable to get back to shore.

During that rescue, Beers said they passed a small boat towing another boat. The towing boat was capsized by the high winds and the skipper had fallen into the water. He then climbed into the 15-foot boat being towed, but Beers said that also appeared unsafe so the man was taken into the harbormaster's boat and brought to shore.

Wind Storm Damage



Tuesday's terrific winds toppled a tall pine tree at the corner of Temple and Church streets. Photos by Fran Nichols

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Storm damage on Standish Shore. A locust tree was felled by the 70 mph winds that ripped through Duxbury on the afternoon of May 21, leaving many residents without power.